

Message Text

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ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SY-05 USSS-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /073 W

----- 119520

R 301525Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4582

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 2140

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SW, GW

SUBJECT: STOCKHOLM TERRORIST INCIDENT

REF: STATE 98172

1. SUMMARY: WEST GERMAN TERRORISTS APPEAR TO HAVE MAINTAINED THEIR "NOTHING IS NEGOTIABLE" POSTURE UP UNTIL THE MOMENT THE EXPLOSION OCCURRED THAT INJURED ALL OF THEM AND SENT THEM DAZED, BURNED AND BLEEDING INTO THE DARKNESS OUTSIDE THE EMBASSY. ACCORDING TO JUSTICE MINISTER LENNART GEIJER, HE HAD CONVEYED TO TERRORIST BY TELEPHONE THE IDEA THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE FREE PASSAGE OUT OF SWEDEN IF THE HOSTAGES WERE RELEASED UNHARMED. TERRORIST HUNG UP, AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER SECOND HOSTAGE (HILLEGAART) WAS EXECUTED. NOT EVERY SOURCE CONFIRMS GEIJER'S RECOLLECTION OF WHAT HE SAID TO TERRORIST. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS ACCOUNTS APRIL 26, BASED ON INTERVIEW WITH JUSTICE MINISTER LENNART GEIJER, DESCRIBE MINISTER AS ARRIVING AT FORWARD COMMAND POST ESTABLISHED IN RESIDENTIAL WING OF GERMAN CHANCERY COMPLEX AT ABOUT 2100 HOURS APRIL 24 TO TALK BY TELEPHONE WITH TERRORISTS. MINISTER IS DESCRIBED AS TELLING JOURNALISTS HE TRIED TO EXPLAIN TO INTERLOCUTOR

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THAT IT WOULD BE SENSELESS TO SHOOT HOSTAGES SINCE THAT

WOULD NOT CHANGE ATTITUDE OF WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT (IMPLY-
ING HE FIRST ADVISED THEM THEIR DEMANDS WOULD NOT BE MET
BY THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT). CONTINUING, GEIJER SAID
TERRORIST REFUSED TO CONVERSE WITH HIM "DESPITE FACT I
INDICATED THAT THERE MIGHT BE A POSSIBILITY FOR THEM TO
LEAVE THE COUNTRY."

3. PRIME MINISTER PALME, FOR HIS PART, TOLD PRESS EARLY
APRIL 25 THAT HE TOO HAD SPOKEN WITH ONE OF THE OCCUPANTS.
ACCORDING TO AFTONBLADET, PALME SPOKE AS FOLLOWS:

"GEIJER HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM (TERRORIST) SEVERAL TIMES
AND HAD GIVEN HIM A TELEPHONE NUMBER WHERE HE COULD
REACH ME. SUDDENLY HE CALLED AND WHEN I ANSWERED,
HE LEFT A MESSAGE THAT THEY WOULD NOT CHANGE THEIR
DECISION BUT ACT AS THEY HAD PLANNED. I TRIED TO
START A DISCUSSION WITH HIM. HE DID NOT SOUND
HYSTERICAL, BUT WHEN HE NOTICED THAT HE WAS ABOUT
TO BE DRAGGED INTO A CONVERSATION, HE PUT DOWN THE
TELEPHONE."

4. IN CALL ON AMBASSADOR APRIL 30, WEST GERMAN CHARGE
D'AFFAIRES HANNS REHFELD SAID IT WAS HIS BELIEF GEIJER
SPOKE TO TERRORISTS ALONG LINES DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 2
ABOVE. ON THE OTHER HAND, A SWEDISH OFFICIAL CLOSE TO THE
EVENT HAS TOLD US HE DOES NOT BELIEVE GEIJER ACTUALLY REACHED
POINT IN HIS REMARKS TO TERRORISTS WHERE IT COULD BE SAID DEFIN-
ITELY THAT HE HAD CONVEYED POINT ABOUT FREE EXIT. SEE SEPTTEL.

5. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNT APRIL 25, GOS KNEW OF FIRM
WEST GERMAN POSITION BY 2000 HOURS APRIL 24 BUT AVOIDED
CONFIRMING THIS FACT TO MEDIA UNTIL GEIJER COULD COMMUNICATE
IT DIRECTLY TO THE TERRORISTS BEFORE THEY LEARNED OF IT VIA
RADIO.

6. ACCORDING TO AVAILABLE EVIDENCE, GEIJER TALKED WITH
TERRORISTS AT ABOUT 2100 HOURS. PALME TALK OCCURRED
BEFORE 2200 HOURS. EXECUTION OF HOSTAGE OCCURRED SHORTLY
AFTER 2200 HOURS. AT 2300 HOURS TERRORISTS RELEASED THREE
WOMEN HOSTAGES WITH MESSAGE. CONTENTS OF THIS MESSAGE ARE
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NOT YET KNOWN AND COULD PRESUMABLY SHED LIGHT ON WHETHER
TERRORISTS WERE BEGINNING TO RECONSIDER STICKING WITH THEIR
ORIGINAL PLAN.

7. DURING AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF APRIL 24, COMMUNICATION
BETWEEN BONN AND STOCKHOLM WAS KEPT OPEN VIA HOT LINE
BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER PALME AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT. THE
FOREIGN OFFICE WESTERN COUNTRIES DIRECTOR KNUT THYBERG,

COMPARABLE TO US ASSISTANT SECRETARY, REMAINED AT PALME'S
SIDE THROUGHOUT.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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